

NBC's *Today*

04/28/26

7:00:54 a.m. [TEASE]

22 seconds

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: No Laughing Matter]

CRAIG MELVIN: No laughing matter. Jimmy Kimmel pushing back against calls from the President and First Lady for him to be fired over a joke about Melania trump days before that D.C. shooting.

JIMMY KIMMEL [on ABC's *Jimmy Kimmel Live!*, 04/27/26]: It was not – [LAUGHTER] – by any stretch of the definition a call to assassination.

MELVIN: Inside the latest late-night controversy and where it all goes from here.

(....)

7:08:47 a.m.

2 minutes and 42 seconds

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: Kimmel Responds to President and First Lady]

MELVIN: Well, the shooting has led to a new clash between the First Family and Jimmy Kimmel. The late-night host, pushing back overnight after the President and First Lady called for Kimmel to be fired over a controversial joke. NBC's Gabe Gutierrez is that part of the story for us. Gabe, good morning to you.

GABE GUTIERREZ: Craig, good morning. Jimmy Kimmel standing by those comments overnight, calling it nothing more than a days-old light roast about the President's age while also pushing the White House to tone down its own rhetoric.

KIMMEL [on ABC's *Jimmy Kimmel Live!*, 04/27/26]: You know, sometimes you wake up in the morning, and the First Lady puts out a statement demanding you be fired from your job.

GUTIERREZ: Overnight, Jimmy Kimmel responding to the latest calls for his cancellation, the late-night host facing a new backlash after a controversial joke last week during a parody of the White House Correspondents Dinner.

KIMMEL [on ABC's *Jimmy Kimmel Live!*, 04/23/26]: Look at Melania – so beautiful, Mrs. Trump, you have a glow like an expectant widow.

GUTIERREZ: The segment aired two days before prosecutors say a gunman tried to assassinate the President at the dinner. Yesterday, the First Lady posting: "His monologue about my family isn't comedy- his words are corrosive and deepens the political sickness within America," adding

“enough is enough. It is time for ABC to take a stand.” President Trump also slamming Kimmel for what he called a “despicable call to violence.” “Who in their right mind says a wife would be glowing over the potential murder of her beloved husband?” Kimmel now saying it was nothing more than a joke about the Trump’s age difference.

KIMMEL [on ABC’s *Jimmy Kimmel Live!*, 04/27/26]: It was a very light roast joke about the fact that he’s almost 80, and she’s younger than I am. It was not – [LAUGHTER] – by any stretch of the definition of call to assassination. And they know that.

GUTIERREZ: The controversy comes just seven months after ABC briefly suspended Jimmy Kimmel Live in the wake of a monologue following the assassination of conservative activist Charlie Kirk. Now, the comedian taking on the White House, referencing a comment from the press secretary before the dinner.

KIMMEL [on ABC’s *Jimmy Kimmel Live!*, 04/27/26]: If you want us to believe that a joke I made three days before this dinner had any effect on anything that happened, well, and maybe someone should look into this psychic lady, too.

KAROLINE LEAVITT [on FNC’s *The Fox Report*, 04/25/26]: This speech tonight will be in classic Donald J. Trump. It’ll be funny, it’ll be entertaining, there will be some shots fired tonight.

[CROWD GASPS]

GUTIERREZ: And speaking directly to the First Lady:

KIMMEL [on ABC’s *Jimmy Kimmel Live!*, 04/27/26]: I agree that hateful and violent rhetoric is something we should reject. I do, and I think a great place to start to dial that back would be to have a conversation with your husband about it because – [CHEERS AND APPLAUSE]

GUTIERREZ: ABC and Disney have not responded to our request for comment. Neither has the White House on Kimmel’s overnight monologue, Craig.

MELVIN: Gabe Gutierrez for us there in D.C. Gabe, thank you.